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Flashback

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FLASHBACK

Journal of the Washington County Historical Society

Preserving Our Past for Future Generations

Volume 66 Winter 2016 Number 4

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On the Cover: The students and teachers of Durham School District No. 106 stand in front of the early Durham School.

A History of Durham School District No. 106

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article about the history of Durham School District No. 106 was the winner of the Walter J. Lemke Prize, offered each year by the Washington County Historical Society for the best article, with emphasis on Washington County outside of Fayetteville.

By Cheri Colie

Durham was a settlement and station of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad, located 180 miles northwest of Little Rock and 16 miles southeast of Fayetteville, the county seat of Washington County. According to June Bull's manuscript, "The History of Durham, Arkansas," the earliest recorded settlers in the area were Richard and John Robbins. Their U.S. Land grants were acquired in the 1830s. Other members of the Robbins family moved south to Texas before the Civil War. By the 1880s, most of the land in Durham was owned by John S. White with a portion owned by W.A. McKenzie. The Clark family is also listed as one of those early settler families.

The Durham post office was established in 1873 and closed in 1967. In 1874 Durham had a population of 60, contained a steam grist mill, three churches and a school. According to the *Polk Directory*, by 1892-1893, Durham still had a steam grist mill and a saw mill owned by J.S. Moore and two general stores owned by Dr. G.W. Carter of the Carter family from the Carter's Store community, three miles southwest of Durham.

The railroad began operation around 1887 between Fayetteville and St. Paul and was extended to Pettigrew in Madison County in 1897. Its purpose was to haul the crossties that were cut from the white oak forests of the area. Cattle were shipped and passenger service was provided. Train service ended in 1937 and the rails were removed.

A photo of the students of Durham School on Sept. 8, 1915. Ester Harris was

one of the teachers at Durham during this time period.

By 1900, the R.L. Polk's *Arkansas State Gazetter Business Directory* shows Durham had maintained a population of 60. Dr. G.W. Carter still has a drug store but no mill was listed. Van Hoose and Son had a general store as did William Spencer Bassett. Thomas Goble was the blacksmith and Mary A. White had a hotel.

In 1843, the Arkansas General Assembly decreed that Arkansas school districts would be identified by the township location, but this system didn't work because this system was not utilized by state and county governments appropriately. So subscription and private schools became very important in meeting the educational needs of the community. A subscription school was one in which the community paid to educate the children, with no public monies available. A contract would be drawn up with a teacher with their duties and how much they would be paid. In 1853, the Office of County Common School Commissioner was established by the Arkansas State Legislature. This established a pattern of state control in education.

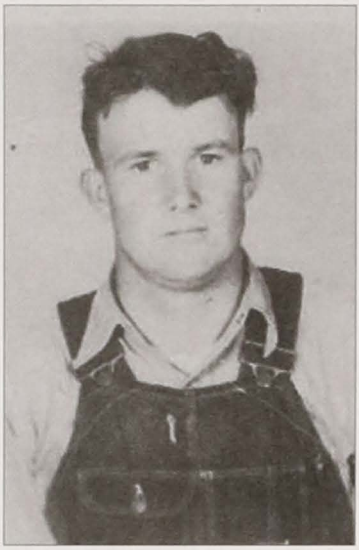
In 1874, due to the adoption of a postwar constitution, school districts in Arkansas were organized around a community instead of by township locations as previously done. Thus began the formal organizing of school districts and the first were organized in Washington County and completed by 1884. About one hundred seventy school districts were organized in Washington County. By 1948-1949, this number was down to eight due to the merging of districts in less populated areas. Merging of these districts led to abandoning the school buildings that had served not only as a school but as community centers. Some of these were sold to individuals, or in the case of Durham, ownership reverted back to the original owners.

Durham School District No. 106 was established in 1883, although a tax for this school was passed by Washington County in 1878. The original school building was opened in the upstairs room of the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1885, a new school building was erected. The property for this school faced east toward the Ozark Road and was between the Ozark Road and the home of

Velma Dabney, one of the teachers at Durham.

Upperclass students on the steps of Durham School.

John Samuel White. This building was in use until approximately 1927. In July of 1896, District 156-Osborne became a part of District 106, according to Washington County School Records. In 1923, Crossroads No. 105 was added to the Durham School District. In 1924, the Watts family donated land to build a new school. It was completed in 1929 and had three classrooms for the first through the eighth grade. In 1944, Union Point was dissolved and those students were divided between Durham School District No. 106 and Hazel Valley District No. 85. The school eventually served through the twelfth grade. There were three classrooms and a fourth room that served as a teacher's living quarters. It was a single story, wood frame building with four interior brick chimneys. June Bull writes in her manuscript "The History of Durham, Arkansas": "The rail tracks here were also within 50 feet of this school building. There was a well and pump for water; when you needed a drink you took your cup to the pump and pumped. Big wood burning King Heaters warmed each classroom in the winter with the boys carrying in the wood which had been cut and stacked."



Clyde Hill

Deed Record 130, page 586, dated December 14, 1907, but not filed until April 7, 1910, showed a deed between Presley Bryan White, T.B. Harris, and James Jacob Watts, director of District No. 106 and Durham Local 2703 F.E. & C.U. of A. In exchange for one hundred dollars, the F.E & C.U. of A gave use of their upper room with necessary approaches and entrances of the school building

Courtesy of Barbara Lewis

The Pollock sisters at a Durham reunion, from left: Mary Jane Pollock Combs (bass), Alberta Pollock Justus (tenor), Ruby Pollock Carpenter (alto) and Alice Pollock Solomon (soprano).

on the second and fourth Saturday night of each month and any other time they wanted to meet when it would not conflict with the meeting of the Durham No. 519 I.O.O.P.

According to Deed Record 205, page 571, dated June 26, 1922 between Mrs. M.E. McKenzie, a widow, J.H. Clark and Sarah L. Clark, his wife and School District No. 106, the Durham School was sold 53/100 acres of land for fifty dollars. Deed Record 234, page 254, dated July 19, 1923, showed a deed to School District No. 106 by John E. White, Albert Ratliff and W.L. Burnett in consideration of the sum of one dollar by the Methodist Episcopal Church South by W.J. Harris, George T. Carter and J.A. Whitehouse as trustees. This one acre of land was conveyed by B.F. Harris and wife to J.M. Watts, T.C. Harris and W.J. Harris as trustees for church and school purposes by their deed recorded in book 122 on page 269 to be used as a place of worship of all

The students and teachers of Durham School in 1911 or 1912, including the following people: Louis Brewer, Nellie Brewer, Clark Brewer, Lora Dorsett, Willie Dorsett, Roy White, Cal Pool, Nola Pool, John Pool, Eula Meeker, Carrie Collins, Martha Gabbard, Gladys Wise, Sadie Thompson, Bessie Harris, Bertha Stephens, Roma Watts, John White [Mudhole], Loy Stephens, Katherine Eaton, Arthur Springston, Alvin Gabbard, Jesse Stephens, Arthur Ritter, Gladys Ritter, Doyle Collins, John Clark, Roy Wise, Bennie White, Lila White, Hazel Harris, Goldie Shumate, Dick Shumate, Emma Shumate, Lola Springston, Catherine Bell (teacher), Norman Harris, Frank Bell (teacher), Lena White, and Dixie White.

orthodox Christian denominations, and also to be used as a school house for the public school district 105 and when the districts are changed then for the district in which the land is located, and the county board of education of Washington County having made an order transferring school district 105 to school district 106 and the building on the lot above. If the district relinquished it as use of public schools, the trustees were free to use the lot and any buildings for church purposes.

In Deed Record 240, page 152, dated September 7, 1927,

George A. Watts and his wife Ida sold three acres to J.W. Springston, W.L. Burnett, Noah Robbins, W.H. Brink, B.M. Shumate and N.H. Watts as directors of School District No. 106. The deed states that if the three acres cease to be used for school purposes, the land shall revert back to the grantors.

I compiled a list of teachers from Washington County Arkansas Register of Licenses records, filled-out surveys by former students, and photo identifications. Here are several bios of teachers:

Ballard, Ben Calvin: Ben Calvin was born March 1, 1881, the son of A.J. and Clarissa Shumate Ballard. He was married to Elsie Johnson on August 12, 1906.[1] In 1910,[2] he was living in Washington County, Arkansas with the census listing his occupation as a high school teacher. By the 1930 census[3], he was living in Mayes County, Oklahoma, where his occupation was listed as superintendent. According to his obituary[4], Ben was a 1906 graduate of the University of Arkansas and had been a state representative from Washington County. At the time of his death, he was a teacher in consolidated schools near Okemah, Oklahoma. He died December 22, 1947.

Caughman, Walter: Walter Caughman was born in 1885, the son of William and Malisa Centers Caughman. On the 1930[5] and 1940[6] census, his occupation was primary teacher. According to his obituary, he was a retired school teacher. He passed away on May 26, 1967[7] with burial at Baptist Ford Cemetery in Washington County, Arkansas.

Harris, Esther: Esther was born November 17, 1893, the daughter of Samuel Alexander and Martha Ellen Davis Harris. She died July 26, 1991[8]. She was a retired school teacher and a member of the University City Eastern Star Chapter No. 295. "Miss Esther" as she is locally known, taught at Durham in 1911-1912, 1914-1918 and 1940-1944.

Pace, Bonnie Brashers: Bonnie Brashers Pace was born January 14, 1913, in Combs, the daughter of William Howard and Ida Bivens Brashears. She was a 1951 graduate of the University of Arkansas and earned a master's degree in education from the

Courtesy of Angela Stewart Barker

The Durham School on River Road, after an ice storm above and, from a different angle, during the early spring below.

U of A. She was a teacher for more than 50 years, teaching in Arkansas, Kansas, Germany, Venezuela and the Navajo Indian Reservation in Ramah, New Mexico. She died in Wichita, Kansas on June 23, 2003.[9]

Paschal, Bonnie Lou Nickell: Bonnie Lou Nickell Paschal was born January 14, 1913, to Miles and Ruth Nickell, the fifth of six children. She graduated from Fayetteville High School and the University of Arkansas. She was a retired teacher having taught 35 years in public schools including Durham, Hazel Valley, Black Oak, Sunset, White House and Elkins. Bonnie taught at Durham for several years during the mid-1930s for $40 per month. She later decided to return to the university. According to a newspaper article, a car load of Durham School Board members came to her house and offered her a $5 a month raise to return to the classroom. She died June 27, 2010, and is buried at Nickell Cemetery in Washington County, Arkansas.[10]

Family censuses were taken every year starting in 1928. This was dictated by the state of Arkansas to take an enumeration of all the unmarried children in the respective townships between the ages of five and twenty-one years old. These school enumerations for Durham ended in 1948 when the Durham School District No. 106 was consolidated with Elkins School District No. 10. I have included a few school enumerations taken from the Family Census for the Durham School District. The census lists children that were living in the Durham School District but does not necessarily mean that they were attending school at the time of the census.[11]

1928 Family Census

TO CENSUS ENUMERATOR: Enumerate only those children whose birthday falls between February 1, 1922 and January 31, 1907 and those who reside in your district on February 1, 1928 or have been legally transferred to your district. Dates of birthdays must be recorded in full census blank must be signed by parent or guardian. Those blanks must be filed with County Superintendent by March 20th. This census must be taken

between the 10th and the 30th days of March. Act No. 130, 1927

Enumerators for 1928 – W.L. Burnett, Noah Clifford Robbins, N. C. Robbins

Name	Parent/Guardian	Age	Sex	P.O.
Brewer, Floyd	Mary E. Brewer	18	M	Durham
Brewer, John	Mary E. Brewer	16	M	Durham
Brink, Bernard	W.H. Brink	13	M	Durham
Brink, Irene	W.H. Brink (William H)	8	F	Durham
Brink, Raymond	W.H. Brink	16	M	Durham
Burchett, James	Ben F. Burchett	15	M	Elkins
Burnett, Teddy	Ida M. Burnett	17	M	Durham
Burnett, Tommie	Ida M. Burnett	12	M	Durham
Carter, Paul	Paul Carter	16	M	Durham
Chandler, Ruth	Raymond Chandler	17	F	Durham
Chappell, ??	Mrs. Annie Chappell	10		Durham
Chappell, Ernest	Mrs. Annie Chappell	17	M	Durham
Chappell, John	Mrs. Annie Chappell	12	M	Durham
Chappell, Mary	Mrs. Annie Chappell	13	F	Durham
Chappell, Roy	Mrs. Annie Chappell	21	M	Durham
Chappell, Troy	Mrs. Annie Chappell	7	M	Durham
Clark, Billie	Irma Clark	12	M	Durham
Clark, Carl	Irma Clark	9	M	Durham
Clark, Jewell	Will Clark	12	F	Durham
Clark, Velma	Irma Clark	7	F	Durham
Clark, Vera	Irma Clark	15	F	Durham
Collins, Rema	Dowell Collins	20	F	Durham
Collins, Sam	C.A. Collins	19	M	Elkins
Dudley, Millie	Owen Dudley	9	F	Durham
Dudley, Ruby	Jane Dudley	14	F	Durham
Foster, Ellis	John Foster	8	M	Durham
Foster, Mamie	C.L. Foster	17	F	Durham
Foster, Marjore	John Foster	10	F	Durham
Graham, Charles	Florence Graham	7	M	Durham
Graham, Ima	Florence Graham	11	F	Durham
Graham, Ina	Florence Graham	9	F	Durham
Graham,. Irene	Florence Graham	17	F	Durham
Haddock, Aaron	S.S. Haddock	12	M	Elkins
Haddock, Eugene	S.S. Haddock	9	M	Elkins
Haddock, Homer	S.S. Haddock (Samuel S.)	16	M	Elkins
Haddock, Warren	S.S. Haddock	7	M	Elkins
Hampton, Arthur	Mrs. William Hampton	8	M	Durham

Hampton, Myrtle	Mrs. William Hampton	10	F	Durham
Hanna, Ada	Aron Hanna	18	F	Durham
Harris, Elva	W.J. Harris	9	F	Elkins
Harris, Guy	Ben Harris	15	M	Durham
Harris, John	Ben Harris	17	M	Durham
Hendrickson, Anna Belle	Mrs. M. Hendrickson	8	F	Durham
Hendrickson, Guy	Mrs. M. Hendrickson	6	M	Durham
Hendrickson, Willie Muriel	Mrs. M. Hendrickson	10	F	Durham
Hendrickson, Woodrow	Mrs. M. (Monza) Hendrickson	12	M	Durham
Jordon, Myrtle	Bert Jordon	7	F	Durham
Justice, Gilbert	Jane Dudley	8	M	Durham
Kinion, Ruth	R.T Kinion	14	F	Elkins
Lewis, Carl	N.W. Lewis	6	M	Durham
Lewis, Clyde	N.W. Lewis	8	M	Durham
Lewis, Hellen	Mrs. Nora Samuels	9	F	Durham
Moore, Bertha	J.F. Moore	14	F	Durham
Moore, Lee	J.F. Moore	11		Durham
Pool, Ruby Johnson	B.F. Pool	18	F	Durham
Pool, Rudy	B.F. Pool	14	F	Durham
Ratliff, Bernice	Vada Ratliff	14	F	Durham
Ratliff, Bill	Vada Ratliff	15	M	Durham
Ratliff, Ernest	Vada Ratliff	19	M	Durham
Ratliff, Opal	Vada Ratliff	17	F	Durham
Ratliff, Ruth	Vada Ratliff	9	F	Durham
Ritter, Agnes	T.A. Ritter	15	F	Durham
Ritter, Dora	T.A. Ritter	13	F	Durham
Ritter, Louie	T.A. Ritter	18	M	Durham
Scranton, Gladys	Vernon Scranton	18	F	Durham
Scranton, Vernon	Vernon Scranton	14	M	Durham
Shumate, Howard	Maud Hanna	8	M	Durham
Shumate, Mildred	Mary Shumate	19	F	Durham
Shumate, Vernon	Maud Hanna	7	M	Durham
Springston, Austin	A. P. Springston	15	M	Elkins
Springston, Floyd	R.T Springston	17	M	Durham
Springston, Kate	J.M. Springston	18	F	Durham
Springston, Ruth	J.M. Springston	18	F	Durham
Springston, Thelma	J.M. Springston	13	F	Durham
Watts, James	Lake Watts	19	M	Durham
Watts, Lake	Lake Watts	16	F	Durham
Watts, Myrtle	Lake Watts	12	F	Durham
Watts, Paul	Julia Watts	14	M	Durham
Watts, Ralph	Belle Watts	17	M	Durham
Watts, Ruby	Belle Watts	12	F	Durham

Students and teachers in front of the old Durham School.

Watts, Wallace	Lake Watts	14	M	Durham
White, Dorothy	Artie White	7	F	Durham
White, Melba	Artie White	9	F	Durham
Whitehouse, Leota	J.A. Whitehouse	18	F	Elkins
Williford, Eula	T.S.(Thomas S.) Williford	16	F	Durham
Williford, Argil	T.S (Thomas S.) Williford	20	M	Durham
Williford, Ermel	Ermel Williford	17	F	Durham

1932 Family Census

The enumerators were: N.C. Robbins, A.C. Ratliff and N.W. Lewis

Name	Parent or Guardian	Age	Sex	P.O.
Barker, Carl	E.J. Barker	19	M	Durham
Baker, Edna	E.J. Barker	14	F	Durham
Bell, Robert	Albert Bell	15	M	Durham
Bell, Richard	Albert Bell	12	M	Durham
Brewer, John	John Brewer	20	M	Durham
Brink, Raymond	W.H Brink	20	M	Durham
Brink, Bernard	W.H Brink	17	M	Durham
Brink, Irma	W.H Brink	12	F	Durham
Brink, Wilma Louise	O.C Brink	7	F	Durham
Chappell, Mary	J.C Chappell	19	F	Durham
Chappell, John	J.C Chappell	18	M	Durham
Chappell, Fred	J.C. Chappell	16	M	Durham
Chappell, Troy	J. C. Chappell	13	M	Durham
Chappell, Cecil	J.C. Chappell	9	M	Durham
Chappell, Ruth	J.C. Chappell	7	F	Durham
Clark, Myra Dean	S.T. Clark	7	F	Thompson
Clark, Vera	Elbert Clark	19	F	Durham
Clark, Billie	Elbert Clark	16	M	Durham
Clark, Carl	Elbert Clark	13	M	Durham
Clark, Velma	Elbert Clark	12	F	Durham
Clark, Mary Myrtle	Elbert Clark	8	F	Durham
Clark, Billie	H.A. Clark	11	M	Durham
Clark, Helen	H.A. Clark	14	F	Durham
Clark, Mary	H.A. Clark	19	F	Durham
Cobb, Gertrude	A.C Cobb	18	F	Durham
Combs, Roxie	Willis Combs	19	F	Durham
Crumby, James	W.T. Crumby	12	M	Elkins
Crumby, Billie ???	W.T. Crumby	10		Elkins
Davis, Anna	A.R Cobb	17	F	Durham

Davis, Opal	A.R Cobb	17	F	Durham
Davis, Hubert	A.R Cobb	12	M	Durham
Dorsey, Ova	Dink Dorsey	6	F	Durham
Dudley, Clemmie	Roscoe Osborne	19	F	Durham
Dudley, Millie	Oren Dudley	12	F	Durham
Dudley, Viney	Oren Dudley	10	F	Durham
Dudley, Marie	Oren Dudley	7	F	Durham
Eberle, Helen	C.E. Wells	18	F	Durham
Eubanks, Alice	L.C. Eubanks	18	F	Elkins
Eubanks, Liliah	L.C. Eubanks	15	F	Elkins
Eubanks, Dessie	L.C. Eubanks	13	F	Elkins
Eubanks, Alta	L.C. Eubanks	11	F	Elkins
Eubanks, Elsie	L.C. Eubanks	7	F	Elkins
Fainter, Edward		19	M	Durham
Fainter, Ruth		15	F	Durham
Foster, Marjorie	Mrs. John Foster	14	F	Durham
Foster, Ellis	Mrs. John Foster	12	F	Durham
Foster, Virgil	Will Foster	17	M	Durham
Foster, Hilda	Will Foster	16	F	Durham
Foster Patrick, Edna		19	M	Durham
Graham, Irma	Mrs. C.H. Graham	16	F	Durham
Graham, Ina	Mrs. C.H. Graham	14	F	Durham
Graham, Charles	Mrs. C.H. Graham	12	M	Durham
Graham, Edith	Mrs. C.H. Graham	8	F	Durham
Graham, Ella Rose	Mrs. C.H. Graham	6	F	Durham
Griffith, Monroe	Monroe Griffith	17	M	Durham
Harris, Guy	T.B. Harris	19	M	Durham
Harris,	Pearl Harris	13		Elkins
Harris, Dixie	Pearl Harris	8	F	Elkins
Harris, June	Norman Harris	8	F	Durham
Hendrickson, Woodrow	Mr. & Mrs.	16	M	Durham
Hendrickson, Willie Murel	Mr. & Mrs. M. Hendrickson	14		Durham
Hendrickson, Anna Belle	Mr. & Mrs. M. Hendrickson	12	F	Durham
Hendrickson, Guy	Mr. & Mrs. M. Hendrickson	11	M	Durham
Hendrickson, Sue Lee	Mr. & Mrs. M. Hendrickson	6	F	Durham
Jones, Hazel		9	F	Durham
Jones, Lola		7	F	Durham
Kinion, Ruth	B.F. Kinion	18	F	Elkins
Lewis, Harmon	Hubert Lewis	6	M	Durham
Lewis, Clyde	N.W. Lewis	12	M	Durham
Lewis, Carl	N.W. Lewis	10	M	Durham
Lewis, Helen	Nora Lewis	13	F	Durham
McNeely, Helen	Arthur McNeely	8	F	Durham

McNeely, Gertrude	Arthur McNeely	10	F	Durham
McNeely, Alfred	Arthur McNeely	6	M	Durham
Pool, Nola	Mr. & Mrs. John Pool	7	F	Durham
Pool, Quindine	Mr. & Mrs. John Pool		F	Durham
Ritchinson, Maudie	Tom Ritchinson	19	F	Durham
Ritchinson, Johnie	Tom Ritchinson	13		Durham
Ritchinson, Herbert	Tom Ritchinson	11	M	Durham
Roach, Cleo	W.J. White	11	F	Elkins
Robbins, Kermos	N.C. Robbins	10	M	Elkins
Robbins, Sherman	E.L. Robbins	8	M	Durham
Rosson, Warren	Gertrude Cobb	6	M	Durham
Scranton, Vernon	J. W. Scranton	19	M	Durham
Seat, Ruby	W. M. Dudley	17	F	Durham
Shumate, Howard	Maud Hanna	12	M	Durham
Shumate, Vernon	Maud Hanna	11	M	Durham
Shumate, Abbie Dean	Maud Hanna	9	F	Durham
Simmons, Christopher	Mary Simmons	18	M	Durham
Simmons, Claudia	Mary Simmons	15	F	Durham
Simmons, Autie Fay	Mary Simmons	7	F	Durham
Springston, Thelma	J.W. Springston	17	F	Durham
Springston, Austin	Austin Springston	19	M	Elkins
Springston, Billie	O.A. Springston	10	M	Durham
Springston, Glen	O.A. Springston	9	M	Durham
Springston, Josephine	O.A. Springston	8	F	Durham
Springston, Earl	O.A. Springston	7	M	Durham
Stewart, Helen	Jack Stewart	16	F	Durham
Stewart, Guy	Jack Stewart	8	M	Durham
Stewart, Gene	Jack Stewart	6	M	Durham
Stewart, Mary Emma	Mrs. G. W. Stewart	10	F	Durham
Stewart, John Leonard	Mrs. G. W. Stewart	12	M	Durham
Stewart. James Walker	Mrs. G. W. Stewart	16	M	Durham
Stewart, George Raymond	Mrs. G. W. Stewart	19	M	Durham
Watts, Mrs. Howard	Mrs. Homer Watts	20	F	Elkins
Watts, Wallace	Wallace Watts	18	M	Durham
Watts, Lillie	Wallace Watts	19	F	Durham
Watts, Paul	Manuel Watts	18	M	Durham
Watts, Donald	Manuel Watts	9	M	Durham
Roach, Elmer	Manuel Watts	16	M	Durham
Watts, Ruby	N.H. Watts	16	F	Durham
Watts, Robbie Jean	N.H. Watts	7	F	Durham
Watts, Dorothy	N.H. Watts	20	F	Durham
White, Dorothy	L. W. White	11	F	Durham
White, Melba	L. W. White	13	F	Durham

Williford, Imogene	Ida Thompson	6	F	Durham
Wise, Basil	M.R Wise	15	M	Durham
Wise, Jean	M.R Wise	11	F	Durham
Wise, Mearl	M.R Wise	19	M	Durham
Wise, Earl	M.R Wise	19	M	Durham

1944 Family Census

Enumerator for 1944 was Priscilla Brewer.

Name	Parent or Guardian	Age	Sex	P.O.
Brink, Nordella A	Nora Cobb	9	F	Durham
Brink, Norma Lois	O.C. Brink	15	F	Durham
Brink, Charles	O.C. Brink	12	M	Durham
Brink, Jimmy	O.C. Brink	6	M	Durham
Bunch, J.C.	Oliver Bunch	9	M	Durham
Bunch, Dixie	Oliver Bunch	6	F	Durham
Bunch, Troy	Oliver Bunch	16	M	Durham
Clark, Rollin	Elbert Clark	17	M	Durham
Collins, Joyzelle	Rema Collins	13	F	Durham
Crumby, Myrl	W.T. Crumby	16	F	Elkins
Dudley, Wayne	Clemmie Dudley	11	M	Durham
Dudley, Ralph	Clemmie Dudley	7	M	Durham
Everett, Donna Jean	Parker Everett	15	F	Durham
Everett, Duane Elson	Parker Everett	15	M	Durham
Foster, Billy Gene	John B. Foster	14	M	
Hanna, Mark	Mrs. Maud Hanna	14	M	Durham
Hanna, Doris	Mrs. Maud Hanna	12	F	Durham
Harris, Betty	Mrs. Pearl Harris	14	F	Elkins
Harris, Charles	Mrs. Pearl Harris	16	M	Elkins
Harris, Bennie	Mrs. Pearl Harris	13	M	Elkins
Howard, Loyd	T.S. Williford	9	M	Durham
Jarrett, Virginia	G.H. Nevins	11	F	Durham
Jarrett, Richard	G.H. Nevins	9	M	Durham
Jarrett, Nancy Lou	G.H. Nevins	7	F	Durham
Kellar, John Clinton	Cassie Kellar	10	M	Durham
Kellar, Jack Doyle	Cassie Kellar	13	M	Durham
Kellar, Artie Monroe	Cassie Kellar	15	M	Durham
Kidd, Ronald	Mrs. R.O. Kidd	7	M	Durham
Long, Joan	Clem Long	10	F	Elkins
Pettit, Lee Vaughn	T.S. Williford	13	M	Durham
Ratliff, Virginia	A.C. Ratliff	17	F	Durham
Riggins, Glenn	N.D. Riggins	10	M	Durham

Robbins, Juanita	Mrs. E.L. Robbins	14	F	Durham
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Smith, Norman	Floyd Smith	11	M	Elkins
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Springston, Carl	Alice Springston	11	M	Durham
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Stewart, Shirley	J.C. Stewart	6	F	Durham
Stewart, Betty	Jack Stewart	14	F	Durham
Stewart, Peggy	Jack Stewart	12	F	Durham
Stewart, Thelma Jean	Jack Stewart	9	F	Durham
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Turner, Lee	Liddie Turner	10	M	Durham
Watts, Julian	Ralph Watts	11	M	Durham
Watts, Laverne	Ralph Watts	8	F	Durham
Wherry, Marjorie	Alice Springston	15	F	Durham
Williford, Jacklyn	R.R. Williford	10	F	Durham
Williford, Hoyt	Ima Williford	10	M	Durham
Woods, Elmer Wayne	N.F. Wood	16	M	Durham
Woods, Sammie	Mrs. Sam Woods	17	F	Durham
Woods, Frances	Mrs. Sam Woods	14	F	Durham
Woods, Samuel	Mrs. Sam Woods	9	M	Durham

Durham School has had a yearly school reunion for many years. It is always the third Saturday in October and included a potluck dinner. It was held at the Durham Community Center. I attended many years with my father and several years after his death with my mother. I have attended by myself since my mother's death in 2015. In 2011, I asked Charles Brink, the organizer of the Annual Durham School Reunion if I could mail out a survey with the invitations. He said yes and the following are an example of some of those surveys that were returned to me.

Your name: Ina Louise (Graham) Corbin (this survey was filled out by her daughter Patty Corbin

What year(s) did you attend the Durham School: ca

1923-4 until 193-

How far did you live from school: 2 miles on McCord Road and also 2 blocks

How did you get to school: Walked

Did you have siblings that attended with you: Yes- Irene, Charles, Edith and Rose

What subjects did you study: All

What was your favorite subject and why: Math?

Who was your favorite teacher and can you share a memory of them: H. Ray Cornett – the head teacher @ high school and Bonnie Paschal

Are there any other teachers that you can name: Mother thought H. Ray was a great educator and Bonnie was sponsor of school plays.

What did you eat for lunch: Went home for dinner of brought bacon sandwiches (?)

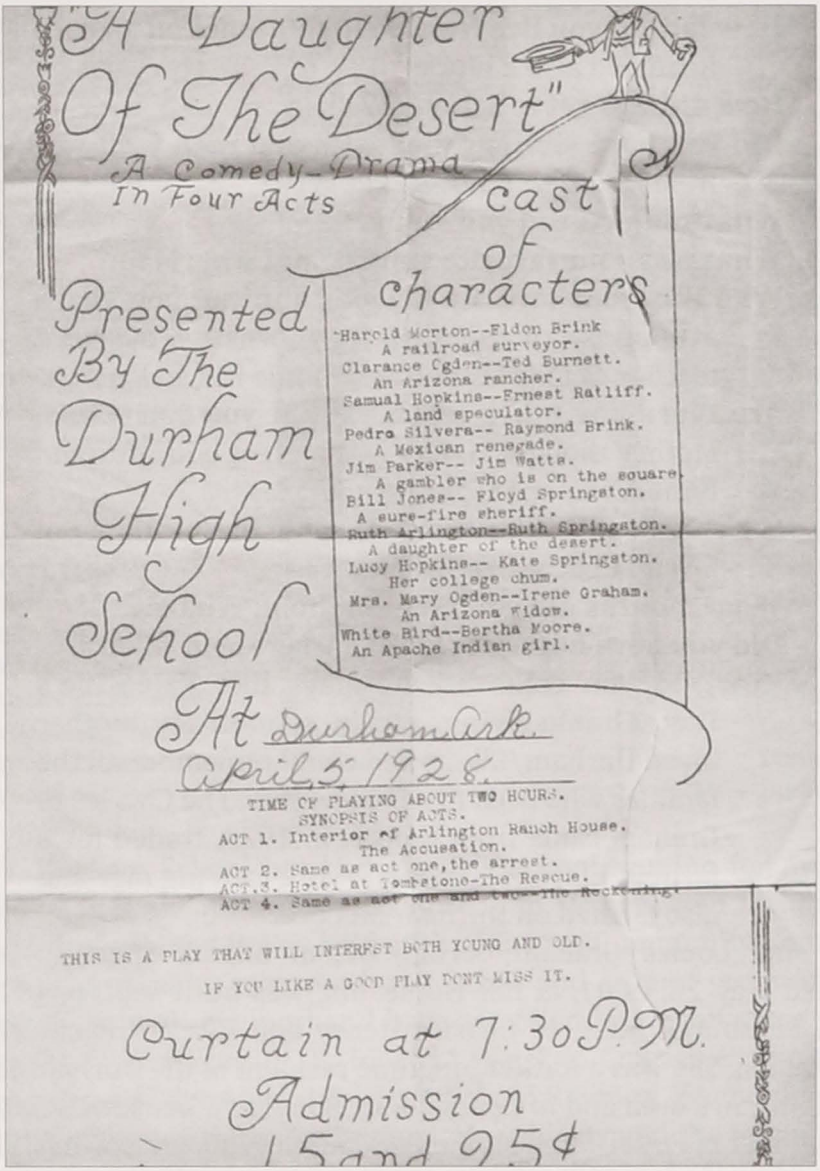
What months did you attend school: Winters

Did you have homework: Yes, by kerosene lanterns

How did you celebrate holidays like Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, etc in school: My mother loved Durham/Elkins and could remember all the families who lived in which houses. The Charles H. Graham came from Kansas in 1920, traded for a farm in Elkins. Charles H. was a canning mgr and also farmed on Durham-McCord.

Ina Louise Graham Corbin, 82, of Siloam Springs, Ark. died May 28, 2001, at her Home. She was born Sept. 6, 1918, in Pittsburgh, Kan., to Charles Henry and Ella Florence Criss Graham. She was a former longtime resident of the Durham and Elkins, Ark area and of Lenexa, Kan. She was a housewife and a member of First United Methodist Church in Siloam Springs. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Corbin, in 1988.

Survivors include one son, Michael E. Corbin of LaPorte, Texas; three daughters, Patricia Lee Corbin of the home and Brenda Irene Scoggin and Pamela Kay Triplett, both of Kansas City, Mo.; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; two sisters,



"A Daughter Of The Desert"

A Comedy-Drama In Four Acts

Presented By The Durham High School

cast of characters

Harold Morton--Elden Brink
A railroad surveyor.
Clarance Ogden--Ted Burnett.
An Arizona rancher.
Samual Hopkins--Ernest Ratliff.
A land speculator.
Pedro Silvera-- Raymond Brink.
A Mexican renegade.
Jim Parker-- Jim Watts.
A gambler who is on the square.
Bill Jones-- Floyd Springston.
A sure-fire sheriff.
Ruth Arlington--Ruth Springston.
A daughter of the desert.
Lucy Hopkins-- Kate Springston.
Her college chum.
Mrs. Mary Ogden--Irene Graham.
An Arizona widow.
White Bird--Bertha Moore.
An Apache Indian girl.

At Durham Ark.
April 5 1928.

TIME OF PLAYING ABOUT TWO HOURS.
SYNOPSIS OF ACTS.
ACT 1. Interior of Arlington Ranch House.
The Accusation.
ACT 2. Same as act one, the arrest.
ACT 3. Hotel at Tombstone-The Rescue.
ACT 4. Same as act one and two--The Reckoning.

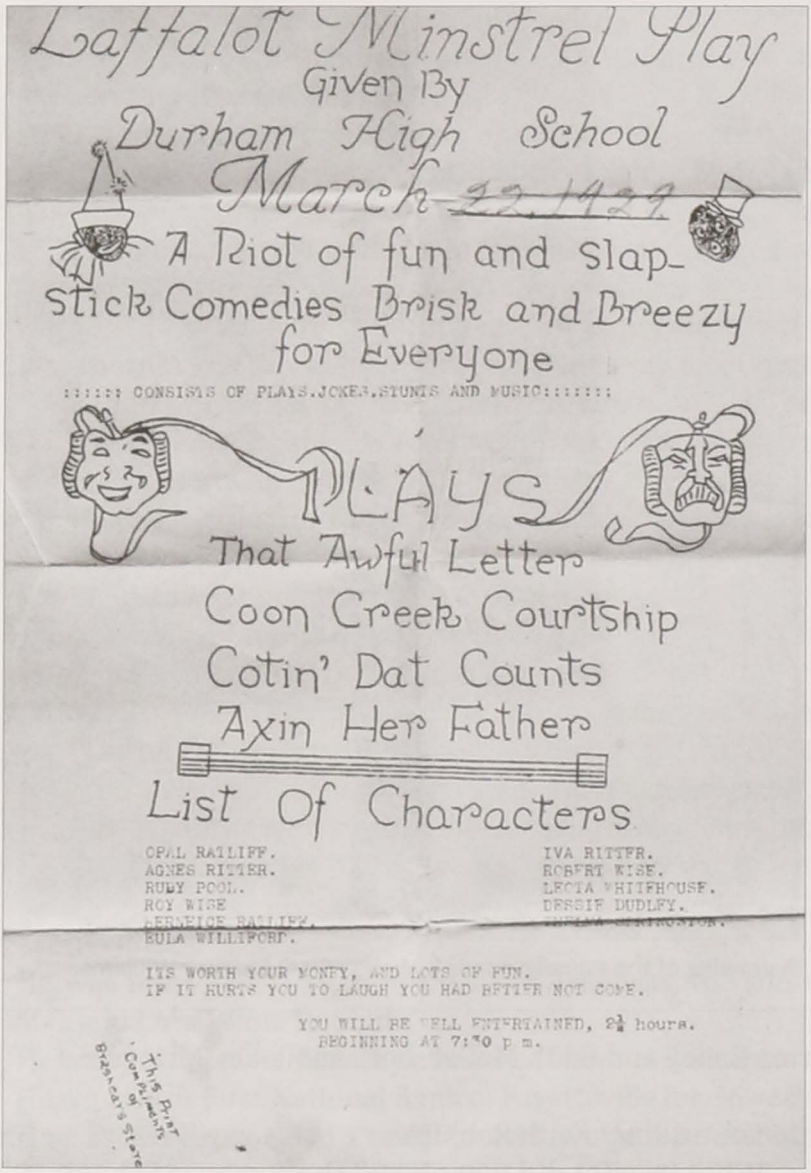
THIS IS A PLAY THAT WILL INTERFST BOTH YOUNG AND OLD.

IF YOU LIKE A GOOD PLAY DONT MISS IT.

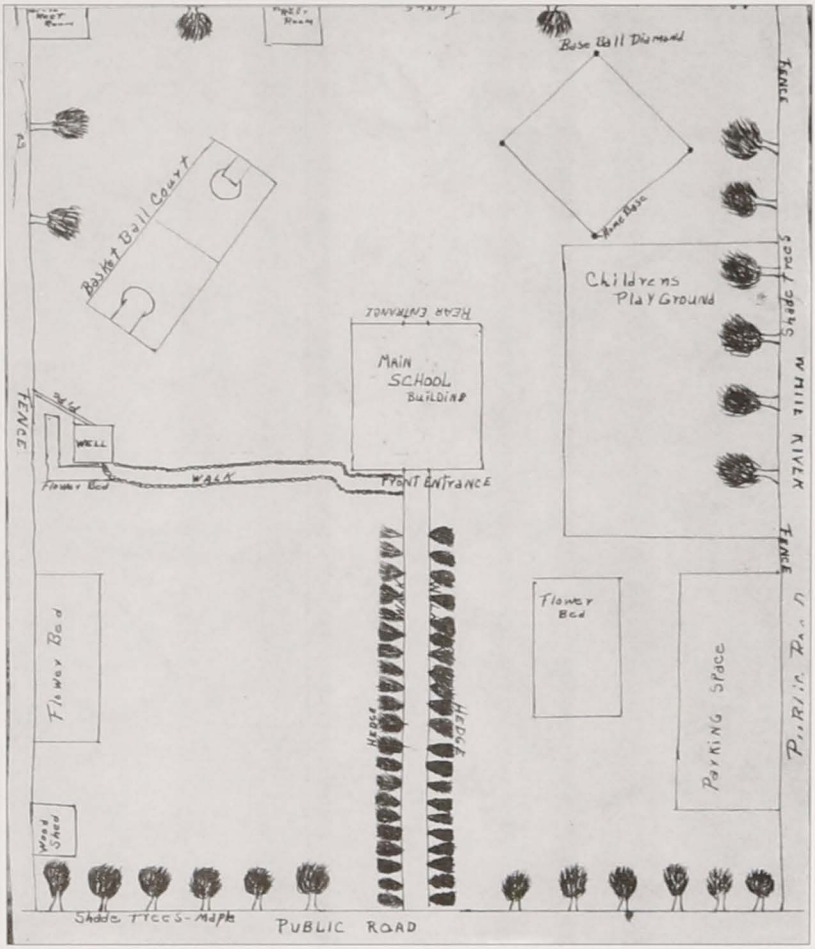
Curtain at 7:30 P.M.

Admission
15 and 25¢

Students at the Durham School produced their own plays in the 1920s, this four-act comedy titled "A Daughter of the Desert." Admission was 15 cents for students and 25 cents for adults at this show slated for April 5, 1828. "If you like a good play, don't miss it."



Another production, the "Laffalot Minstrel Production," offered a series of plays over a two and a half hour period with jokes, stunts and music. And this playbill also quipped that the audience should be forewarned: "If it hurts you to laugh you had better not come."



A drawing of the schoolgrounds by Velma Clark Spencer Williams.

Erma Bailey and Edith McGee, both of Siloam Springs.[12]

Your name: Keith Robbins
What year(s) did you attend the Durham School: 1932-1943 went to Elkins my Sr. year
How far did you live from school: Three miles to Elkins on a bicycle. Got the car very few times.
How did you get to school: Walked unless it was very cold.

Under those conditions my father would take me on a horse. Never missed unless I was sick.

Did you have siblings that attended with you: Yes, my brother Kermos Robbins

What subjects did you study:

What was your favorite subject and why: Math and History, Math could be proven correct. All that were available in each grade. Reading, Arithmetic, Spelling, English, History, Pennanship, Geography, etc.

Who was your favorite teacher and can you share a memory of them: All my teachers were my favorites.

Are there any other teachers that you can name: Bonnie Pace, Velma Dabney, Mildred Ratliff, Miss Esther Harris, Mrs. McCrawley, Mr. Sone, Bonnie Paschal

What did you eat for lunch: Usually a biscuit and egg meat sandwich and a piece of pie or cake. Once in a while a baked sweet potato or a fresh apple.

Did you have homework: Some

How many were in your grade: About 10?

How did you celebrate holidays like Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, etc in school: We had a Christmas tree and program given by the students. Each received a little sack of hard candy, apple, orange, etc. Sometime we "drew" names.

Keith Robbins, 85, of Farmington, died Sunday, May 13, 2012 in Fayetteville.

He was born July 1, 1926 in Durham, Arkansas, the son of Noah C. and Cora White Robbins.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Kermos Robbins.

He worked at First National Bank of Fayetteville for 36 years, retiring as Executive Vice President and worked at Robbins Realty in Farmington after retirement.

He was a graduate of Elkins High School and Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

He was a member of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, serving

as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and on various committees.

He served for many years on the NWA Economic Development District, Inc.

He was co-chairman of the Youth Excellence Award Program, recipient of the United Fund Betty Lighton Volunteer Service Award, served on the United Community Services Board and was a member of Kiwanis International for more than 25 years serving a term as President. He was president of the Junior Section of the Arkansas Bankers Association and was on the founding committee of Ozark Guidance Center.

He was a U. S. Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Philippines. He was a Hall of Fame member of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breeders Association. Keith enjoyed horse shows and gospel quartet singing. His most pleasurable times were spent with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie Ledford Robbins; a son, Larry S. Robbins and his wife Jennette of Farmington; a daughter, Mary F. Mitchell and her husband Larry of Farmington; three grandchildren, Trey Robbins and his wife Liana, Sarah McClain and her husband Ryan and Stephanie Oxford and her husband John; three step-grandchildren, Brian Mitchell and his wife Reagan, Brent Mitchell and his wife Misty and Brock Mitchell; four great-grandchildren, Grayson and Maddox McClain and Olivia and Lily Anne Robbins; four step-great-grandchildren, Bayle, Aidan, Chanlr and Ansley Mitchell and a niece, Joyce Tuller.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 15 in the chapel of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 16 at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville and interment will be in McCord Cemetery, under the direction of Moore's Chapel. Officiating will be Dr. Larry Mitchell, Dr. Douglas Falknor and Dr. Andrew Hall.[13]

Your name: Sherman Robbins
What year(s) did you attend the Durham School: 1931-1942

How far did you live from school: 1 ½ miles
How did you get to school: Walk
Did you have siblings that attended with you: Yes, Lynn and Juanita
What subjects did you study: Reading, Writing and Math
What was your favorite subject and why: Math, I liked it
Who was your favorite teacher and can you share a memory of them: Bonnie Pace-taught typing at home
Are there any other teachers that you can name: Esther Harris, C.L. Sone, Bonnie Paschal
What did you eat for lunch: Meat and bread, home made cinnam roll
What months did you attend school: Sept-May
Did you have homework: Yes
How did you celebrate holidays like Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, etc, in school: Exchanged Valentines card took one are 2 days off.

Sherman Lloyd Robbins, 88, of Elkins passed away Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, at home.

He was born Feb. 20, 1924, in Durham, Ark., to Elbert and Lola Springston Robbins.

As a veteran, Sherman served in the U.S. Navy as a yeoman for four years in World War II. He was a mechanic for many years before becoming a rural mail carrier for 21 years.

Sherman served faithfully as the superintendent of the Elkins Community Church for 44 years and was a member of the Elkins Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved wife, Moselle, to whom he was married for 58 years.

Survivors include his brother, Lynn Robbins; sister, Juanita Dobrinski; son, Rex Robbins and his wife, Tina; daughter, Ann Phelan and her husband, David; granddaughter, Samantha Sisemore and her husband, Ken, all of Fayetteville; grandson, JD Robbins and his wife, Rosalind of Beavercreek, Ohio; great-grandchildren, Brian Sisemore, Abigail Sisemore, Brianna Robbins, Laura Robbins and Zackary Sheridan; as well as other

family members and numerous friends.

His family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013, at Beard's Funeral Chapel.

A funeral service will be held 10 a.m. Friday at the Elkins Community Church with Dr. Andrew Hall and the Rev. Charlie Brown officiating. Burial will follow at the McCord Cemetery.[14]

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Per *School Days, School Days... The History of Education in Washington County, 1830-1950*, compiled by Members of the Washington County Retired Teachers Association, Bonnie Pace wrote "getting the school ground fenced was a major community-school project." According to his publication, the school building was located in an open area with grazing livestock wandering the grounds. There was a joint effort by the teachers, locals and students to construct a fence. A pie supper was held and the men provided the labor to install the fence. A clean area made improved recesses for the children. I once asked my mother how she met my father. She replied "at a pie supper at the Durham School." This was after my dad was discharged from World War II. They were married in November of 1946.

The school was an important place to this community. My aunt, Velma Clark Spencer Williams wrote the following as homework for her English IV class in 1938-1939:

Things the Community could do to Improve School surroundings

1. Help fence school grounds
2. Help provide money for a library
3. Parents teach their children how to take care of things.

Things the School Board could do to improve School Surroundings

1. Make an accredited school of consolidate with another school
2. Provide better water system
3. Provide window shades for the intermediate room.

4. Provide laboratory equipment
5. Provide sanitary rest rooms.

Things the students could do to Improve School Surroundings

1. Set Shade trees
2. Sow grass for a lawn
3. Set flowers
4. Build stone walks
5. Take care of things that belong to the school

The Durham School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 4, 1992. It was summarized as "a single story, wood frame classroom building designed in the Craftsman style. It's basically rectangular plan is relieved only by two small entrance porches, each placed opposite the other in the center of the eastern and western elevations. A metal, gable-on-hip roof shelters the structure, all of which is supported by a continuous cast concrete foundation."[15]

On June 17, 2012, the Durham School No. 106 burned to the ground during the early morning hours. The building was vacant at the time. The only thing left standing was the four brick chimneys. The Durham School was a gathering place and a learning place and had a piece of everyone's heart that attended school there or had family that did.

Notes

1 Washington County Arkansas Marriage Records Book B, 421.
2 1910 Census, Arkansas, Washington Co, Prairie Twp, p 18B, HH No. 312.
3 1930 Census, Oklahoma, Mays Co, Adair Twp p 3B HH No. 70.
4 *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 27 December 1947.
5 1930 Census, Arkansas, Washington Co, West Fork Twp, p 1A HH No. 101.
6 1940 Census, Arkansas, Washington Co, West Fork Twp, p 51A, HH No. 5.
7 *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 27 May 1967.
8 Ibid., July 28, 1991.
9 Ibid., June 26, 2003.
10 Ibid., June 28, 2010; "The History of Durham" by June Bull.
11 Located at Washington County Arkansas Archives.
12 Northwest Arkansas Times, May 27, 2001.
13 Ibid., May 15, 2012.
14 Ibid., Feb. 11 and 13, 2013.
15 National Register Designation; United States Department of the Interior; 1992.

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